

OWI to Report Negro War Role

Two Newspapermen Hired To Tell What Race Is Doing

PM's Bureau



WASHINGTON, July 31.—News about U. S. Negroes and their role in the war effort will get a better break than ever before under plans being formulated by Elmer Davis's Office of War Information (OWI).

Two well-known Negro newspapermen have been selected, it was learned, to supervise the gathering and issuance of Negro news. The head of the new division—still untitled—will be Ted Poston, former New York newspaperman. He will be assisted by William D. Alexander.

Although he has been on the job only a few days, Poston has already persuaded the War Dept. to broadcast to the Negro press the part Negroes are playing in war plants which have won awards for speedy production. In nearly half of these plants Negro workers were employed.

According to Davis's plans, Negroes will get adequate representation in the news-dissemination agency. They will be employed in the photo and broadcast divisions as well as the news bureau. Simultaneously, Davis has also promised that the Negro press will receive as much attention as other newspapers in the issuance of war news. Since most Negro newspapers cannot afford to keep correspondents in Washington, this pledge is of special significance.

Poston's background amply qualifies him for the assignment he has received. Before being summoned to the OWI he worked for Paul McNutt's Man Power Commission as well as the War Production Board and the Office of Production Management. Previously he served as a reporter on the *N. Y. Post* and the *Amsterdam Star News*.



Friday, July 31, 1942

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